

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, HU

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UNGA: HUNGARIAN STATEMENT

1. HUNGARIAN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(HOLLAI), SPEAKING NOV. 20 IN UNGA PLENARY DEBATE OVER ANNUAL
REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION (COMMITTEE
OF 24), MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING PUERTO RICO:

QTE: WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT PEOPLES IN COLONIAL
STATUS WHO COUNT UPON ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS
LIVE ALSO IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA, THE PACIFIC REGION-
AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THIS ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE
EXTENDED TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES
OF THE SEYCHELLES AND THE COMORO ISLANDS, OF PUERTO RICO
AND OTHER COLONIAL TERRITORIES. THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL
LIBERATION SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL THE LAST COLONY
IN THE WORLD HAS GAINED INDEPENDENCE. END QTE.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, COMMITTEE OF 24, OVER STRENUOUS
US OBJECTIONS, DID THIS YEAR ADOPT RESOLUTION
REAFFIRMING PUERTO RICO'S "RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION
AND INDEPENDENCE" AND CALLING ON US NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION
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WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE THIS RIGHT. RESOLUTION HOWEVER

STOPS SHORT OF LABELLING PUERTO RICO A COLONY AND MAKES NO MENTION OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT THERE. SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE, HAVE LIMITED THEIR PLENARY STATEMENTS THIS WEEK ON PUERTO RICO TO CAREFULLY WORDED COMMENTS SUPPORTING COMMITTEE'S ACTION ON PUERTO RICO. YUGOSLAVIA, ALSO MEMBER OF COMMITTEE, MADE ABSOLUTELY NO MENTION OF PUERTO RICO. HUNGARY, WHICH IS NOT MEMBER OF COMMITTEE, HAS THEREFORE GONE FAR BEYOND USSR AND OTHER EES IN (A) IDENTIFYING MINUSCULE INDEPENDENCE GROUPS ON PUERTO RICO AS "NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS"; AND (B) ENCOURAGING THEM TO ENGAGE IN UNSPECIFIED "STRUGGLES". WE BELIEVE HUNGARIAN STATEMENT THEREFORE CONSTITUTES GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO, PARTICULARLY SINCE UNGA IN 1953 ADOPTED RESOLUTION 748 WHICH RECOGNIZED THAT PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN ADOPTING NEW CONSTITUTION IN 1952 AND THAT, THEREFORE, PUERTO RICO SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM UN'S LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. PUERTO RICANS HAVE CONTINUED TO PERIODICALLY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION IN FREE ELECTIONS IN WHICH ADVOCATES OF INDEPENDENCE, AS WELL AS STATEHOOD AND COMMONWEALTH, PARTICIPATE, WE DO NOT SEE HOW ISSUE OF PUERTO RICO IS MORE THAN OF MINIMAL INTEREST TO HUNGARY. STATEMENT OF HUNGARIAN DELEGATION, HOWEVER, MAY WELL PRODUCE VERY STRONG ADVERSE POLITICAL REACTION IN US AND PUERTO RICO.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE PLAN TO MAKE POINTS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 TO HUNGARIAN MISSION HERE AND, IF DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION, WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. WE RECALL THAT PARALLEL DEMARCHES TO BULGARIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA MADE LAST SUMMER WHEN ISSUE WAS BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 24 HAD VERY SALUTORY EFFECT.
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